

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03138 091103 Z

52

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 /115 W
----- 013140

R 090950 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1400

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3138

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: RD MINISTER NGUYEN VAN NGAI SPEAKS ON THE POLITICAL
ASPECTS OF HIS JOB

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. IN A CONVERSATION MAY 8 WITH EMBOFF NEWLY APPOINTED
MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT NGUYEN VAN NGAI DISCUSSED THE
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF HIS JOB FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HIS
APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN DUE TO HIS CONNECTION WITH THE DEMOCRACY
PARTY. HE SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO USE THE
RD CADRE AS A MECHANISM FOR THE PARTY'S EXPANSION.

2. NGAI ADDED THAT THE TWO OTHER PARTIES CURRENTLY ON THE
POLITICAL SCENE, THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
ALLIANCE, WILL NOT BE SMOTHERED. THEY WILL BE GIVEN SCOPE
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03138 091103 Z

TO ORGANIZE. IN FACT NGAI SAID PRESIDENT THIEU HAS
" GIVEN A LOT OF MONEY" TO THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA TO
GET THEM STARTED.

3. EXPANDING ON THIS THEME NGAI ACCUSED THESE TWO PARTIES
OF INDULGING IN WHAT AMOUNTS TO " BLACKMAIL" IN THEIR APPROACH
TO THIEU. THEY DEMAND MORE FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN EFFECT
ARE TELLING THE PRESIDENT: EITHER HELP US OR WE WILL
DELIBERATELY SLOW DOWN OUR RECRUITMENT EFFORTS. THE THREAT
HERE IS THAT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY MAY BECOME THE ONLY QUALIFIED
PARTY, THEREBY LACKENING THIEU AS THE HEAD OF A ONE PARTY
SLATE. NGAI CLAIMED THAT THIEU IS AWARE OF THE PROPAGANDA
DANGER INVOLVED IN SUCH A RESULT. NGAI EXPRESSED BITTERNESS
ABOUT THE USE OF THIS " ADVANTAGE" BY THE FREEDOM PARTY AND
THE SDA.

4. NGAI IMPLIED THAT THE UPPER HOUSE ELECTION BILL IS A
COUNTER IN THIS BARGAINING. HE REFUSED TO EXPRESS AN OPINION
ON WHETHER THIEU WILL SEEK TO RESTORE THE PROVISION MAKING
PARTY ENDORSEMENT MANDATORY FOR SLATES. HE SAID THAT THIEU
WILL WATCH THE ATTITUDE OF THE FREEDOM PARTY AND THE SDA
BEFORE DECIDING HOW TO MOVE.

5. COMMENT:

5. THE ONLY INDICATION THAT WE HAVE HAD THAT THE
ADMINISTRATION MAY BE FINANCING IN SOME WAY DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY EITHER THE FREEDOM PARTY OR THE SDA WAS AN ALLEGA-
TION MADE RECENTLY BY NGUYEN DINH LUONG, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
THE VNQDD- UNIFIED A COMPONENT OF THE SDA, THAT THE ADMINISTRA-
TION HAD GIVEN TRAN QUOC BUU, CVT CHAIRMAN, SOME 30 MILLION
PIASTERS TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES OF THE SDA. LUONG' S
IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF, IN FACT, BUU HAD RECEIVED THIS SUM,
IT HAD BEEN USED NOT FOR THE SDA BUT FOR THE WORKER FARMER
PARTY ALONE. LUONG' S ALLEGATION ASIDE, IT IS WELL KNOWN
THAT THE WFP THROUGH ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE CVT ENJOYS
A STRONGER FINANCIAL POSITION THAN ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY
EXCEPT THE DEMOCRACY PARTY. THERE HAS BEEN AN UNSPOKEN
RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT WITHIN SDA RANKS ONE RESULT OF
WHICH HAS BEEN THE WILLINGNESS OF ITS COMPONENTS TO PUT UP
WITH THE SOMETIMES HEAVY HANDED USE OF WFP INFLUENCE IN
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PAGE 03 SAIGON 03138 091103 Z

ALLIANCE RANKS. (NGUYEN NGOC HUY, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE
PROGRESSIVE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT COMMENTED TO AN EMBASSY
OFFICER RECENTLY THAT THE POSITION OF COMMISSIONER GENERAL
FOR FINANCE WITHIN THE SDA WAS GIVEN TO THE WFP IN RECOGNITION
OF ITS FINANCIAL STRENGTH.)

6. IN GENERAL THE LEADERSHIP PERSONALITIES OF THE COMPONENT ELE-

MENTS OF THE SDA AND THE FREEDOM PARTY IN DISCUSSIONS WITH EMB-
OFFS HAVE EMPHASIZED NOT MONEY BUT THE ATTITUDE OF THE ADMINIS-
TRATION AS THE DECISIVE FACTOR IN WHETHER OR NOT THEIR ORGANIZA-
TIONAL EFFORTS HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. THEY NOTE THAT THE
DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL PARTY CHAPTERS CAN BE INHIBITED OR
ENCOURAGED BY THE MANNER IN WHICH LOCAL AUTHORITIES HANDLE
THE PAPER WORK INVOLVED IN EXPANDING MEMBERSHIP LISTS
REQUIRED BY DECREE LAW 060. THEY EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE
INVOLVEMENT OF MANY OF THESE LOCAL OFFICIALS WITH DEMOCRACY
PARTY WORK WILL INEVITABLY RESULT IN A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE
TOWARD THE RECRUITMENT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER PARTIES. THESE
CONCERNS NOT FINANCES APPEAR TO DOMINATE THE THINKING
OF FREEDOM PARTY AND SDA LEADERS.
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